

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

5/18/2019

RESOLUTION 2019.18

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to SB 770

WHEREAS, this nation established a vision that all people have certain rights, including "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

WHEREAS, achieving the goal of living a healthy and productive life, in line with the vision of "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness," can be severely impaired for individuals and families who cannot access quality health care to prevent and treat disease or injury; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families are negatively affected when their health concerns impact their productivity at work, potentially endangering their income and work stability, and therefore putting individuals and families at increased risk for financial vulnerability, bankruptcy, and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, "universal health coverage" means that all people and communities can use the health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship; and

WHEREAS, the health of Oregon's residents and families impacts the state's communities, businesses, and economy, and when all members of a community have access to health care, costs to employers are reduced through decreased employee absenteeism and decreased administrative expenses, and costs to health care providers in the form of lost compensation are also diminished; and

WHEREAS, publicly financed, privately delivered health care would relieve employers from administering health insurance for their employees, would create a level playing field for Oregon industry and businesses, and would remove this frequently contentious issue from union bargaining efforts; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the only industrialized, free-market nation that does not have a form of universal healthcare coverage; and

WHEREAS, the RAND Report, commissioned by the Oregon Health Authority and funded by our state legislature, confirmed that universal health care coverage in Oregon based on single payer model would cost no more than our current system, while covering all residents and removing all financial barriers to care; and

WHEREAS, Lane County's Senator James Manning, with fellow Lane County chief sponsors Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Julie Fahey, and other sponsors Senator Floyd Prozanski and Representatives Paul Holvey and Marty Wilde, is championing a bill in the 2019 legislative session, SB 770, which has been amended to establish a commission to explore the issues related to implementing a single payer system in Oregon, including engaging the public in designing the method of financing such a system; and

WHEREAS, Oregon residents would have reduced stress knowing that they would be covered from birth to death by a single payer health care system, and would not have to spend time frequently choosing among coverage options; and

WHEREAS, people would have more freedom to pursue their dreams, potentially leading to more productive and rewarding endeavors, without losing access to health care;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: Urges the Oregon legislature to pass SB 770 in the 2019 session; and

SECTION 2: Urges the Oregon legislature to take other steps to move us towards the goal of an equitable, affordable, high quality health care for all Oregon residents; and

SECTION 3: This resolution will be shared with appropriate legislators who are members of the Joint Committee and Ways and Means and the Human Services subcommittee of that committee.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, May 18, 2019**